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MYSTERY IN SPACE

FEB.-MAR.
NO. 18
10c

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And 12 Square Dance songs plus book "Square Dancing For Young And Old" for $2.98.

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by Hap Williams

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4. TELL I WALTZ AGAIN WITH YOU
5. YOUR CHEATIN' HEART
6. TELL ME YOU'RE MINE
7. I BELIEVE
8. TELL ME A STORY
9. GOMEN NASAI
10. APRIL IN PORTUGAL
11. ANNA
12. RUBY
13. SAY YOU'RE MINE AGAIN
14. SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD
15. SEVEN LONELY DAYS
16. CAN'T I
17. THE SONG FROM MOULIN ROUGE (WHERE IS YOUR HEART?)
18. CARAVAN

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1. DEATH OF HANK WILLIAMS
2. I'LL NEVER GET OUT OF THIS WORLD ALIVE
3. I LET THE STARS GET IN MY EYES
4. YOUR CHEATIN' HEART
5. THE GAL WHO INVENTED KISSING
6. I DON'T KNOW
7. NO HELP WANTED
8. EDDY'S SONG
9. HOT ROD MAMA
10. DEAR JOHN
11. A FOOL SUCH AS I
12. BACK STREET
13. MIDNITE
14. I'LL GO ON ALONE
15. I'D TRADE ALL MY TOMORROWS
16. KAW-LIGA
17. CONDEMNED WITHOUT TRIAL
18. THAT'S ME WITHOUT YOU

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IT WAS A GRIM TRAVESTY OF 20TH CENTURY CRIME AND PUNISHMENT! STRANGE ISOLATION AND FETTERS FOR THE NINE MOST BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS OF THE NINE PLANETS, AND ONLY I COULD SOLVE THE SINISTER SECRET OF THE INTERPLANETARY PRISONERS IN ...

The CHAIN GANG of SPACE

THOSE PRISONERS, BLAIR! IT'S HORRIBLE!

LOOK CLOSELY, TONEL, AND YOU'LL SEE SOMETHING FAR MORE HORRIBLE ABOUT THAT CHAIN GANG!

ACTUALLY, THIS CASE HISTORY BEGAN SOME TIME AGO WHEN A STRANGE SPACE CRAFT HOVERED OVER STEAMING MERCURY AND SCOOPED UP ONE OF THAT PLANET'S FLAME CREATURES...

SHRUDLU! EE!!!!!

NOT LONG AFTER, THE SAME SHIP, SKILLFULLY SKIRTING THE MOONS OF JUPITER, SUDDENLY SWOOPED DOWN, AND WITH ITS GIANT CLAW, ABDUCTED ITS LEADING SCIENTIST...

BUT WE ON EARTH HAD NO INKLING OF THESE INCIDENTS, UNTIL ...

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MYSTERY IN SPACE

UNTIL, THAT FATEFUL DAY WHEN THE MARAUDING SHIP VISITED EARTH, AND HURTLED DOWN TO...

DR. LATOUR!

WHAT WAS BEHIND THESE THREE INTERPLANETARY KIDNAPINGS?

THE ANSWER CAME AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ALLIED NATIONS...

THIS IS INDEED A GRAVE MATTER, GENTLEMEN! DR. HELENE LATOUR, THE WORLD'S FOREMOST NUCLEAR SCIENTIST, IS BEING HELD FOR RANSOM! ONE MILLION DOLLARS IS DEMANDED!

WHO IS BEHIND THIS OUTRAGE?

KIDNAPERS DON'T SIGN THEIR RANSOM NOTES! I VOTE WE ASSIGN THIS CASE TO SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR DUNCAN BLAIR, OF THE INTERPLANETARY CRIME COMMISSION!

THAT NOON, I, DUNCAN BLAIR, WAS HANDED SEALED ORDERS. AT EXACTLY 1:22 I TOOK OFF FROM SPACEPORT 18 WITH MY CO—PILOT, MARK TONEL...

18

NEXT DAY, MY RADAR PICKED UP A SIGNAL WHERE NONE SHOULD BE, SO...

DECREASE SPEED TO 4,000 REVOLUTIONS, AND HOLD STEADY ON COURSE! SOMETHING'S DEAD AHEAD!

WH-WHAT IN BLAZES IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE, BLAIR?

I'M NOT SURE! IT LOOKS LIKE AN INTERPLANETARY VERSION OF A CHAIN GANG! CUT THE POWER AND COAST UP CLOSER!

I PRESSED THE BUTTON CONTROLLING THE FRONT OBSERVATION WINDOW! WHAT I SAW MADE MY FLESH CREEP!

AND THEN--THEN I FELT MY HEART LEAP, AS...

LOOK, TONEL--IT'S SHE--DR. LATOUR, IN ONE OF THOSE CELLS! HAND ME THAT RAY GUN--I'M GOING OUT THERE!

WATCH YOURSELF, BLAIR--THERE ARE PROBABLY GUARDS ABOUT!

BUT THE ONLY EVIDENCES OF LIFE WERE THE PITIFUL PLEADING CAPTIVES IN THEIR GLASS-ENCLOSED CAGES...

HMMM...THERE'S ONE PRISONER FROM *EACH* OF THE PLANETS! NICE HAUL THOSE KIDNAPERS COUNTED ON--9 MILLION! BUT HERE'S WHERE I UPSET THEIR PLANS!

BUT WHEN I TRIED TO INCH CLOSE...

THERE'S A THICK LAYER OF SOME ELEMENT SURROUNDING THOSE CAGES! POWERFUL ENOUGH TO ELECTROCUTE ME IF I DON'T GET OUT OF IT!

I BEAT A HASTY RETREAT BACK TO THE SHIP AND AFTER TAKING A TESTING ON THE KEVLIN COMPUTER...

IT'S A CLOUD OF COSMIC DUST, ALL RIGHT!

I'LL TRY THE MASON-PROJECTOR ON IT!

AIMING LOW TO AVOID INJURING THE CAPTIVES, I PRESSED THE TRIGGER, AND...

THAT DID IT, TONEL--EXPLODED THE COSMIC DUST!

YES--YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH NOW!

IT STRUCK ME AS STRANGE THAT THE KIDNAPERS SHOULD HAVE LEFT NO GUARDS, BUT MY MAIN THOUGHT WAS TO FREE DR. LATOUR AND THE OTHERS...

QUICKLY, DR. LATOUR, PUT THIS HELMET ON!

BUT THE EARTH'S MOST DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST ONLY STARED AT ME WITH STILL, LIFELESS EYES..

SHE--SHE SEEMS PETRIFIED--LIKE A STATUE!

THEN I MADE THE MOST ASTONISHING DISCOVERY OF ALL ...

SHE'S... M-MELTING! THIS IS ONLY A **WAX FIGURE** OF DR. LATOUR!

PANIC GRIPPED ME, AND I HASTENED FROM ONE CAGE TO THE NEXT, SMASHING AS I WENT...

THIS ONE'S WAX, TOO!

THEN, I PAUSED, AND PONDERED--AND SHOUTED MY TORTURED THOUGHTS INTO MY RADIO...

THIS ISN'T THE WORK OF A SIMPLE GANG OF KIDNAPERS, TONEL! IT'S TOO BIG! A **WHOLE PLANET** IS PROBABLY BEHIND THIS CRIME!

YOU MAY BE RIGHT, BLAIR--BUT WHICH ONE? AS YOU CAN SEE, EACH CAGE IN THE CHAIN GANG HAS ONE VICTIM FROM EVERY ONE OF THE NINE PLANETS!

I CONTINUED PROBING, SEARCHING FOR A CLUE, AND THEN ...

WAIT A MINUTE--THAT ASH-LIKE SUBSTANCE ON THE FLOOR OF THE FIGURE IN THE PLUTONIAN'S CAGE--IT RESEMBLES...I--I GET IT!

AND, WITH A VICTORIOUS SHOUT, I SMASHED THE CAGE...

WAX FIGURES **CAN'T SMOKE** CIGARETTES AND LEAVE ASHES ON THE FLOOR, MR. PLUTONIAN!

CALLING P-Z-O, CALLING P-Z-O--PLUTO, CAN YOU HEAR ME!

THEY WON'T HEAR YOU NOW! I THOUGHT IT ODD THAT YOUR FELLOW-PLUTONIANS DIDN'T LEAVE A GUARD HERE! BUT THEY DID--**YOU!**

MYSTERY IN SPACE

GIVE ME THE HELMET! I--I CAN'T BREATHE WITHOUT IT!

YES, YOU CAN HAVE THE HELMET--AFTER YOU'VE TOLD ME WHERE DR. LATOUR IS!

HE TOLD ME ALL I NEEDED TO KNOW--AND, DAYS LATER, TONEL AND I WERE HOVERING OVER THE MOST REMOTE PLANET OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM, AND ABOUT TO LAND...

PLUTO'S VERY COLD, BLAIR--WE BETTER RAISE THE TEMPERATURE OF OUR SUITS! DO YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THE CAVE IS?

I DO, IF THAT PLUTONIAN GUARD WAS TELLING THE TRUTH!

I LET DOWN THE SHIP ON A ROCKY PEAK AND, FOLLOWING THE GUARD'S DIRECTIONS, CAME UPON A STRANGE AND SINISTER SIGHT...

THERE'S DR. LATOUR AND THE OTHERS! THEY SEEM TO BE ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE! I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON?

WE'LL SOON KNOW! LET'S GO!

TONEL PRESSED THE TRIGGER OF HIS RAY GUN, AND THE GUARDS NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT THEM...

AAAAEEEE!

BBZZZZ

EARTHMEN! THANK HEAVENS!

WHAT WERE THEY DOING TO YOU? AND WHAT ARE THESE BLASTED MACHINES?

THE PLUTONIANS NEEDED THE COMBINED SCIENTIFIC BRAINS OF ALL THE PLANETS TO PERFECT A DEADLY WEAPON! AND WHEN WE REFUSED, THEY ATTACHED THESE BRAIN-ROBBING MACHINES TO US!

BUT THESE MACHINES CAN ONLY START PROBING THE MINDS WHEN THEY ARE RELAXED IN A DEEP, NATURAL SLEEP, AND...

SO YOU, AND THE OTHERS, HAVE BEEN FIGHTING SLEEP FOR DAYS!

YES! WE DID NOT DARE LET THEM USE OUR BRAINS TO PERFECT A WEAPON THAT WOULD BE USED AGAINST OUR OWN PLANETS!

GOOD GIRL! BUT, WAIT--WHAT ABOUT THAT PHONEY CHAIN GANG, AND THE MILLION-DOLLAR RANSOM NOTES?

NOTHING BUT A DIVERSION, TO KEEP YOU BUSY HUNTING FOR A "KIDNAP GANG" WHILE THEY WAITED HERE FOR US TO FALL ASLEEP, AND SET THOSE MACHINES WORKING!

I SEE! WELL, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE SPACESHIP IS DISCOVERED!

I NOSED THE CRAFT EARTHWARD, AND, LONG BEFORE LANDING, RADIOED THE STORY IN! NATURALLY, OUR HOMECOMING ATTRACTED QUITE A CROWD...

HERE IT COMES!

FINALLY, MOMENTS AFTER WE LANDED...

AND NOW, GENTLEMEN, MEET DR. HELENE LATOUR AND THE OTHER BRAVE AND BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS WHO SUFFERED TORTURES RATHER THAN LET THE PLUTONIANS USE THEIR BRAINS AGAINST THE UNIVERSE!

BUT THE MEDALS AND THE SPEECHES HAD TO WAIT A WHILE, FOR WHEN THE OFFICIALS ENTERED THE CABIN...

HUH--? THEY'RE ALL ASLEEP!

THEY'RE ENJOYING A WELL-EARNED REST! BUT IF THIS HAD HAPPENED YESTERDAY OR THE DAY BEFORE, NONE OF US WOULD EVER BE ABLE TO SLEEP IN PEACE AGAIN!

ZZzzzzzz

The End ©

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HEADHUNTERS LIVE IN THIS PART OF THE JUNGLE!
RELAX, TIM - HERE, HAVE SOME DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM -
ENJOY YOURSELF LIKE BUTCH, TIM -
OOPS! WHAT'D I TELL YOU? A HEADHUNTER!
GULP!
EEK! HE'S COMING AFTER US!
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
HE'S GAINING ON US!
DROP EVERYTHING SO WE CAN RUN FASTER!
I'M DROPPING EVERYTHING - EVEN OUR DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM!
STOP RUNNING KIDS - HE'S NOT CHASING US!
LOOK! HE'S BLOWING BUBBLES!
ALL HE WANTED WAS SOME FLEER DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM!
NO WONDER HE RAN AFTER US!
IGGITY-ZIGGY GUBLE-BLUB-GOYNG-GOO!
HE SAYS, "TRY SOME FLEER DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM YOURSELVES, KIDS!"
YOU'LL LIKE ITS BIG BUBBLES AND SECRET SWEET TASTE!
-AND DON'T FORGET THE FUNNIES, FACTS AND FORTUNES TOO!
HAVE FUN WITH GUM
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Binky in "The BEST PRESENT OF ALL!"

WHAT'S THE MATTER, ALLERGY? YOU LOOK AS IF YOU'VE LOST ALL YOUR CHRISTMAS CHEER.
I HAVE.
YOU ALL GAVE ME SUCH NICE PRESENTS FOR CHRISTMAS, AND I HAD HARDLY ANY MONEY TO GET REAL NICE THINGS FOR YOU. SO I GOTTA START MAKING MONEY FOR NEXT YEAR...
MAYBE YOU CAN... BUT DON'T THINK WE DIDN'T LIKE YOUR PRESENTS.
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE YOU'RE OVERLOOKING, SON. DIDN'T YOU SEND SOME OF YOUR CHRISTMAS MONEY OVERSEAS FOR COLD AND HUNGRY BOYS AND GIRLS?
SURE, ALL THE GANG DID THAT, DAD.
"AND DIDN'T YOU SING CAROLS ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE GOLDEN AGE CLUB?"
"AND DIDN'T YOU SPEND A LOT OF TIME AND PART OF YOUR CHRISTMAS MONEY FIXING UP TOYS FOR THE KIDS IN THE HOSPITAL?"
SO, YOU SEE, YOU GAVE THE BEST THINGS ANYONE CAN--REAL THOUGHT FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S HAPPINESS. AT CHRISTMAS, OR ANY OTHER TIME. THIS IS THE MOST WELCOME PRESENT YOU CAN GIVE--AND THE ONE THAT LASTS LONGEST.
YOU SAID IT, DAD!

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.

THEY CALLED HIM "THE LUCKIEST MAN IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM"! NO MATTER HOW GREATLY THE ODDS WERE STACKED AGAINST HIM, HIS UNCANNY LUCK PULLED HIM SAFELY THROUGH EVERY ADVENTURE! THEN ONE ILL-FATED DAY, NOTHING HE DID TURNED OUT RIGHT! HAD HIS LUCK DESERTED HIM--OR WAS IT STANDING BY, WAITING TO TURN HIS MOST HUMILIATING DEFEAT INTO HIS GREATEST VICTORY?

SUPER-LUCK OF LUKE!

WHAT LUCK! I'VE FOUND AN ASTEROID FULL OF DIAMONDS!

HE'LL NEED MORE THAN LUCK TO GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE!

IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY WHEN I AM STANDING OUTSIDE THE MARTIAN ARCADE RUN BY BERNARD THE BEETLE AND HARDHEART HORACE. I HAVE ONE MEASLY CREDIT IN MY JEANS, HAVING SPENT MY DOUGH TO LOAD UP MY PROSPECTING ROCKET, WHEN...

"... THE BEETLE GIVES ME THE 'KISS YOUR MONEY GOOD-BY' ROUTINE..."

BUT I ONLY HAVE ONE CREDIT LEFT, BEETLE!

SO THE MOST YOU CAN LOSE IS ONE CREDIT! BUT WITH A LUCKY BREAK, YOU CAN WIN A THOUSAND!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

"HE GRABS MY LAST CREDIT, AND I HALF-CLOSE MY EYES WHILE THE WHEEL SPINS..."

NUMBER 7! YOU LOSE, LUKE!

TOO BAD, PAL! BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME!

MY LAST CREDIT! I-- HEY!

OW!

HAW! HAW! HIT BY A HORSESHOE! I TOLD YOU YOU'D GET A LUCKY BREAK! HERE -- TAKE THIS ARROW TOO-- IT'S YOUR BOOBY PRIZE!

"SO NOW I AM BROKE-- EXCEPT FOR A RUSTY HORSESHOE AND A CROOKED ARROW..."

I'VE GOTTA MAKE A REAL FIND THIS TIME! I'LL NEVER GET ENOUGH MONEY TO MAKE ANOTHER TRIP...

"WHEN I REACH THE ASTEROID BELT, I BRING OUT MY MAP, I GET A HUNCH-- AND PLAY IT..."

LUCKY HORSESHOE-- MAKE THE ARROW POINT WHERE TO HIT PAY DIRT...

"I TAKE ONE LOOK AT 289C-- AND ALMOST TURN BACK! IT'S JUST A PEBBLE IN SPACE--WITH NO TELLTALE MARKS INDICATING PRECIOUS METALS! BUT I DECIDE TO TEST MY LUCK ANYWAY..."

I MUST'VE DUG A HUNDRED HOLES SO FAR! THIS IS THE LAST! IF I DON'T-- HEY! WHAT'S THIS?

DIAMONDS! I HIT THE JACKPOT!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

"I STAKE MY CLAIM AND HEAD BACK FOR MARS. THERE--"

BEETLE--ISN'T THAT OUR GOOD FRIEND, LUKE?

"LUCKY LUKE," HARDHEART! HE STRUCK IT RICH! LET US RENEW OUR ACQUAINTANCESHIP!

"I ALWAYS SAY NO PROSPECTOR SHOULD DO COMMERCIAL MINING, SO I SELL MY ASTEROID RIGHTS, DEPOSIT A MILLION CREDITS IN THE BANK, AND..."

WHY DON'T YOU STAY PUT ON MARS, LUCKY? YOU GOT ENOUGH MONEY FOR YOURSELF, NOW!

YEAH--BUT NOT ENOUGH FOR *BOTH* OF US! IF I STAY ON MARS, YOU'LL TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME AGAIN!

"AFTER I LEAVE, THE BEETLE AND HARDHEART HOLD A CONFERENCE!!.

BEETLE--THERE GOES "OUR" MONEY!

WHATTA WE WAITIN' FOR? MAYBE HE'LL BE LUCKY AND FIND ANOTHER TREASURE FOR US!

"BACK IN THE ASTERIOD BELT, I KISS MY LUCKY HORSESHOE AGAIN, REACH FOR THE MAP AND THE ARROW, AND..."

THE ARROW POINTS TO ASTEROID 1248! THAT'S MY NEXT PORT OF CALL!

"AFTER I LAND, I AM HARD AT WORK, WHEN..."

LUCKY, LUCKY ME--PLATINUM ON ASTEROID B!

THERE HE IS, BEETLE! AND REMEMBER--WHAT'S HIS IS OURS!

"..... I AM HIJACKED OUT OF MY CLAIM!"

HIT THE SPACE-LANES, LUCKY!

THANKS FOR THE PLATINUM! YOUR LUCK'S ALL RIGHT--FOR US!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

"WHAT CAN I DO--WRITE CITY HALL? IT'S A LONG WAY BACK TO MARS... SO I CHALK IT OFF TO EXPERIENCE! LATER, ON ANOTHER ASTEROID..."

MY LUCKY HORSESHOE'S DONE IT AGAIN! I'VE STRUCK OIL!

I LIKE THIS GAME, HARDHEART--"FOLLOW THE LEADER"! IT SURE PAYS OFF!

"BY THIS TIME, IT IS GETTING MONOTONOUS! AND I DON'T LIKE THE MONOTONY!"

THANKS FOR THE OIL, LUKE--AND BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME!

I'M GETTING FED UP WITH YOUR--

TEMPER, TEMPER! YOU BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE BLOW YOUR TOP!

"SO IT'S BACK TO SPACE AGAIN..."

WHAT'S THE USE OF BEING LUCKY, IF THOSE TWO HIJACKERS TAKE THE LUCK AWAY FROM YOU?... I FEEL A TINGLING IN THE HORSESHOE--I'LL TRY ONE MORE ASTEROID!

"I PUT MY LUCKY ARROW ON THE MAP, GIVE IT A SPIN, AND..."

THE DOUBLETS--TWO ASTEROIDS WHICH REVOLVE AROUND EACH OTHER! MAYBE IT'S A SIGN OF DOUBLE LUCK!

"I MAKE MY BASE ON DOUBLET 1, AND START DIGGING! SOON--"

OW!--MY HANDS STING! WONDER WHAT I'VE HIT?

CLANG!

POLARIUM--THE HEAVIEST OF ALL METALS! IT'S WORTH A THOUSAND DOLLARS AN OUNCE--AND I'VE FOUND TONS OF IT--ALL IN ONE PIECE!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

"SO I RIG UP A BLOCK-AND-TACKLE. EVEN IN THE LIGHT GRAVITY OF THE DOUBLET, THE *POLARIUM* IS ALMOST TOO HEAVY FOR ME TO HANDLE. THEN..."

NOW I'M ALL SET TO TOW IT BACK TO MARS!

LUKE'S FOUND SOMETHING AGAIN! LET'S CONGRATULATE HIM!

"BY THE TIME I HAVE THE *POLARIUM* READY TO BE HOISTED INTO SPACE..."

NO! THIS IS THE LAST TIME--

RIGHT, LUKE--YOU'LL NEVER SEE US AGAIN! YOU'RE GOING OFF INTO THE WILD *BLACK* YONDER--TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T TELL THE PATROL ABOUT US!

"THEY FASTEN A ROCKET BOOSTER CHARGE ON MY BACK, AND..."

BUT I'LL DIE OUT THERE IN OPEN SPACE!

THAT'S YOUR TOUGH LUCK, LUKE!

THE POLARIUM IS ALL OURS NOW! LET'S HAUL IT BACK TO MARS IN HIS SHIP AND CASH IT IN!

"I AM BEMOANING MY LUCK, WHEN A FEW MILES OUT..."

THE ROCKET'S CONKED OUT! I'LL HANG HERE UNTIL MY AIR RUNS OUT!

"MEANWHILE..."

HEY, BEETLE--LOOK AT DOUBLET NUMBER 2! IT SEEMS TO BE *CHASING* US!

THE SUPER-HEAVY *POLARIUM*! ITS GRAVITY IS PULLING NUMBER 2 DOWN ON US!

HURRY UP! CUT THE *POLARIUM* OFF THE SHIP!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

"HELPLESS IN SPACE, I SEE THE LAST ACT OF THE TRAGEDY..."

THE ASTEROID CRASHED DOWN ON THEM! WONDER HOW THAT HAPPENED?... AND A LOT OF GOOD THAT DOES ME! I'M STILL MAROONED IN SPACE!

"SUDDENLY, I DRIFT AWAY FROM THE DOUBLETS, AND I LOSE ALL SENSE OF DIRECTION!..."

I'M LOST! COME ON, LUCKY HORSESHOE-- SHOW ME THE WAY TO GO HOME!

"I HEAVE THE HORSE-SHOE AWAY FROM ME WITH ALL MY STRENGTH! THEN--TO MY SURPRISE..."

I'M MOVING *BACK-WARD!* BY THROW-ING THE HORSESHOE FORWARD, I'VE SENT MYSELF IN THE *OPPO-SITE DIREC-TION!*

"I GIVE UP ALL HOPE! MY LUCK HAS TURNED AGAINST ME AT LAST..."

MY TANK OF OXYGEN IS ALMOST EMPTY! --WH-WHAT'S THAT ASTEROID? I-IT LOOKS LIKE -- IT IS! *DOUBLET NUMBER 1!* AND THOSE HIJACKERS' SHIP IS ON IT!

"IN A LITTLE WHILE, I LAND ON THE ASTEROID, AND..."

OW! NO MORE PROS-PECTING FOR ME... I'VE MADE ENOUGH MONEY! FROM NOW ON, IT'S GOOD OLD TERRA FIRMA FOR ME!

SO HERE I AM BACK ON EARTH, FIXED FOR LIFE! NOW IF ANY OF YOU SHOULD EVER SEE A HORSESHOE OUT IN SPACE, GRAB IT! IT MIGHT BE *MY* LUCKY HORSESHOE -- AND YOU KNOW WHAT IT DID FOR ME!

The END

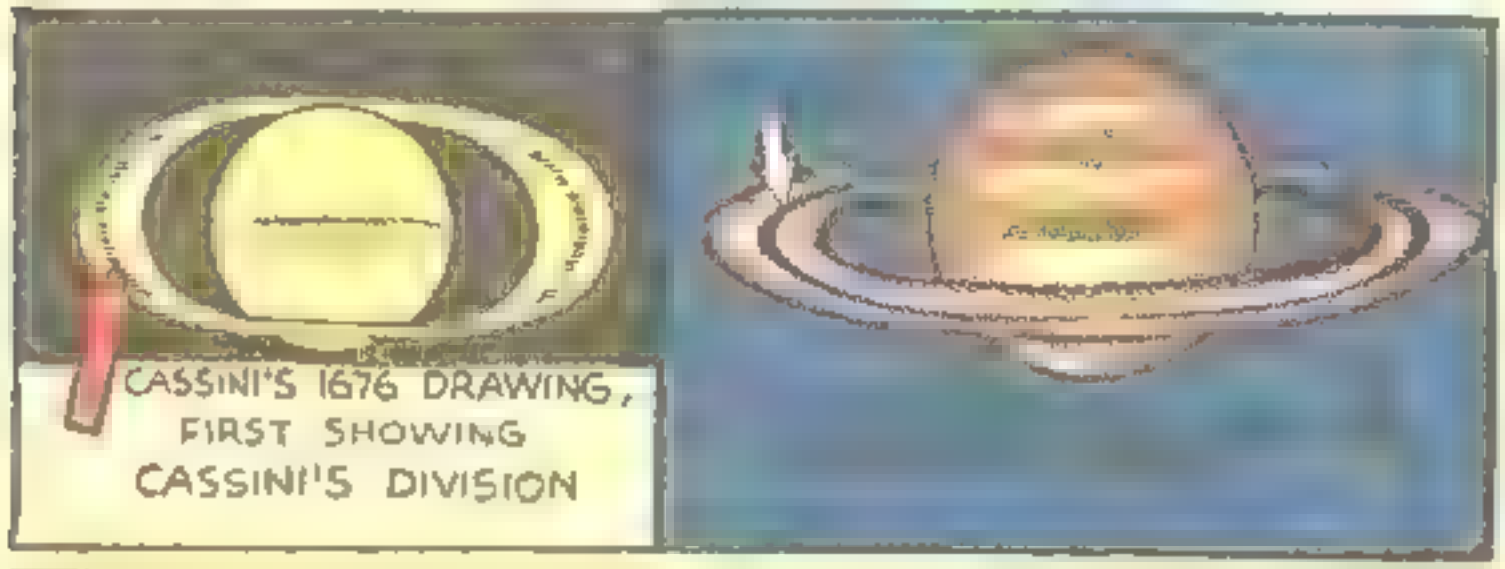
THREE SMASHING ADVENTURES of SUPERBOY

NOW ON SALE at your Favorite Newsstand!

GIANTS of the TELESCOPE

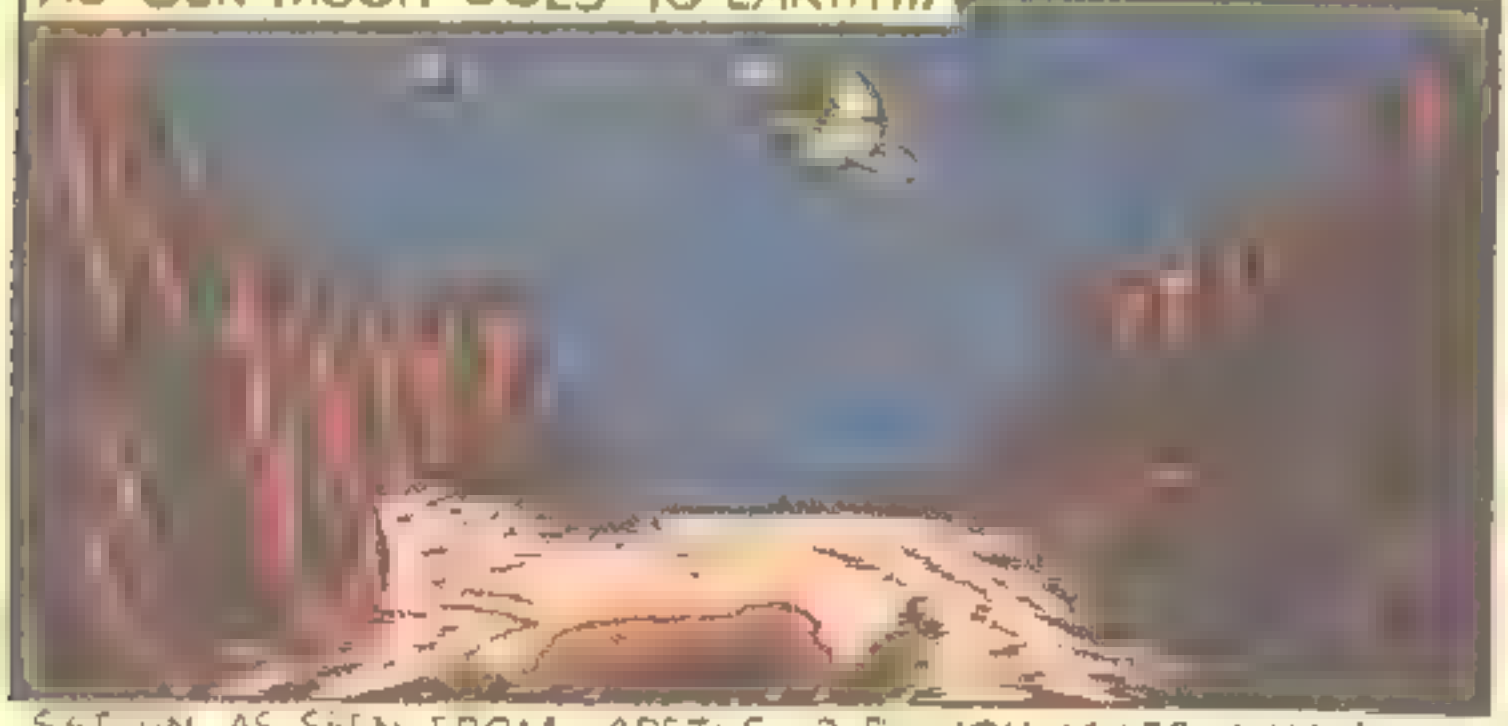
JEAN DOMINQUE CASSINI (1625-1712)

ALTHOUGH AN ITALIAN BY BIRTH, CASSINI WAS APPOINTED SUPERVISOR OF THE PARIS OBSERVATORY, WHERE HE DISCOVERED FOUR NEW SATELLITES OF SATURN AND THE PRINCIPAL DIVISION IN SATURN'S RINGS--NOW KNOWN IN HIS HONOR AS ***CASSINI'S DIVISION...***



CASSINI'S 1676 DRAWING, FIRST SHOWING CASSINI'S DIVISION

LATER, HE GAINED FURTHER DISTINCTION WITH HIS DISCOVERY THAT ***JAPETUS***, ANOTHER OF SATURN'S SATELLITES, VARIES IN BRIGHTNESS IN THE SAME PERIOD AS ITS REVOLUTION AROUND SATURN, PROVING THAT ***JAPETUS*** MUST CONSTANTLY KEEP THE SAME FACE TOWARD SATURN, JUST AS OUR MOON DOES TO EARTH...



SATURN, AS SEEN FROM JAPETUS, 2 BILLION MILES AWAY.

THE FIRST NOTICE OF THE ***ZODIACAL LIGHT***, A NEBULOUS CONE SEEN EXTENDING FROM THE SUN'S PLACE ALONG THE ECLIPTIC, HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO HIM. INDEED, IT WAS CASSINI WHO DEVISED THE NAME, ***ZODIACAL LIGHT***, FOR THE PHENOMENON...

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912 AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39 United States Code, Section 233) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF

MYSTERY IN SPACE, published Bi-monthly at New York, N. Y. for October 1, 1953.

1. The names and addresses of the Publisher, editor, managing editor and business manager are: Publisher, National Comics Publications, Inc., 480 Lexington Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. Editor, F. Wolfwarth, 480 Lexington Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. Managing Editor, none. Business Manager, J. [illegible] 18 Lexington Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.) National Comics Publications, Inc., H. Donenfeld, J. S. Liebowitz, P. H. Sampliner, G. Donenfeld, R. Liebowitz, S. U. Sampliner, J. S. Liebowitz & A. I. Menin as Trustees for I. Donenfeld and S. Donenfeld, A. I. Menin & J. I. Golinko as Trustees for L. Liebowitz and J. Liebowitz, A. Donenfeld, Trustee for H. Donenfeld Foundation, Inc. (a non-stock corp., H. Donenfeld, Pres., A. I. Menin, Sec'y.), I. Donenfeld, all at 480 Lexington Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: none

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs shows the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

J. S. LIEBOWITZ, Business Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of September, 1953

ALFRED B. YAFFE, Notary Public

(My Commission expires March 30, 1954)

MYSTERY IN SPACE

AS YOU READ MY STORY, I WANT YOU TO THINK CAREFULLY... TRY TO DECIDE IF YOU WOULD HAVE DONE WHAT I DID UNDER THE SAME SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES./ I WAS THE FIRST EARTHMAN TO CROSS SPACE TO MARS... ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT MY REWARD WAS A STRANGE SORT OF FAME... THE DUBIOUS HONOR OF BEING KNOWN AS...

"The MARTIAN FREAK!"

THERE HE IS, FOLKS, ON EXHIBIT EXCLUSIVELY IN THIS CARNIVAL... AND NOWHERE ELSE ON MARS! THE ONE... THE ONLY... THE ORIGINAL *MAN FROM EARTH!*

BAH! HE'S A PHONEY... JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER FREAKS!

EARTH PEOPLE HAD DUBBED ME THE LONE EAGLE OF SPACE... FOR LIKE ANOTHER FLYER OF AN EARLIER GENERATION, I WAS MAKING THE FIRST SOLO FLIGHT BETWEEN TWO WORLDS... EARTH AND MARS...

MARS! I'VE MADE IT... ALMOST! FOR NOW COMES THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF THE TRIP... A SAFE LANDING!

I TRIED THE "ORBITAL" APPROACH"... WAS DOING FINE... UNTIL AT THE LAST MOMENT, SOMETHING WENT WRONG... MY SHIP VEERED CRAZILY, AND...

CRASH!

GIL KANE + GIELLA

MYSTERY IN SPACE

ALTHOUGH MY SHIP WAS BADLY WRECKED BY THE IMPACT, THE LESSER GRAVITY OF MARS SAVED MY LIFE...

THE FIRST EARTHMAN TO LAND ON MARS... BUT NO CHEERS, NO PARADES! WHO CARES? AT LEAST I'M ALIVE!... NOW TO CLIMB OUT OF THIS VALLEY, AND SEE IF I CAN FIND ANY SIGNS OF LIFE...

A SHORT WHILE LATER...

TILLED FIELDS! THERE MUST BE INTELLIGENT LIFE ON MARS!

WEIRD PLANTS UNLIKE ANYTHING GROWING ON EARTH! IF I EVER GET OFF THIS PLANET, I'LL TAKE SOME OF THESE SPECIMENS BACK WITH ME...

GIANT INSECTS! ARE *THEY* THE CIVILIZED MARTIANS?

ATTACKING ME! I'VE GOT TO RUN... EVEN IF I DON'T KNOW WHERE!

UNFAMILIAR WITH THE TERRAIN, I STUMBLED! THE INSECTS SWOOPED DOWN ON ME...

THIS IS... THE END...

THEN... WITH A SUDDEN MOVEMENT.. TWO PLANTS REACHED OUT AND...

INSECT-SWALLOWING PLANTS! ARE *THEY* THE MARTIANS?

MYSTERY IN SPACE

HIDDEN DANGERS LURKING ALL ABOUT ME! HOW CAN I REPAIR MY SHIP!

HELLO, FUNNY-MAN!

AND THEN I SAW MY FIRST HUMAN MARTIAN! SOME SORT OF THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE MUST HAVE TRANSLATED H S WORDS SO I UNDERSTOOD THEM...

HELLO, YOUNG FELLOW! BY OUR STANDARDS, YOU'RE PRETTY FUNNY-LOOKING YOURSELF!

I LIKE YOU, FUNNY-MAN! PLEASE COME WITH ME SO I CAN SHOW DADDY MY NEW FRIEND...

I WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE TURN OF EVENTS! THERE WERE "HUMAN" MARTIANS HERE... AND I COULD CONVERSE WITH THEM...

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU LIVE! IT ISN'T MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE FARM HOUSES WHERE I COME FROM!

DADDY! DADDY! LOOK WHAT I FOUND!

THE DOOR OPENED... A MARTIAN APPEARED... LOOKED AT ME... BLINKED HIS EYES ONCE, TWICE... AND THEN...

EEEYAH! A MONSTER! A FREAK!

SCAT! GET AWAY FROM HERE! STAY AWAY FROM MY BOY!

BUT, I...

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'M NO FREAK... I'M FROM EARTH! ANOTHER WORLD!

BEAT IT, OR I'LL SIC THE *SLITHS* ON YOU!

I TRIED TO GET HIM TO LISTEN TO ME BUT IT WAS USELESS! ALL OF A SUDDEN I HEARD A RUSTLING SOUND...

WH... WHAT'S THAT?

REEE

MYSTERY IN SPACE

THE WEIRD STREAMERS CAME TOWARD ME, ENVELOPED ME, AND...

OWOO! THEY STING!

EEEEEEEEEE

I COULDN'T STAY THERE AND BE STUNG TO DEATH..SO I RAN...

THEY MUST BE THE *SLITHS*... MARTIAN WATCHDOGS!

I KEPT CLOSE TO A PAVED ROAD UNTIL I SAW SIGNS OF A TOWN AHEAD OF ME...

MAYBE I'LL BE TREATED BETTER IN TOWN! I'LL LOOK UP THE HEAD MAN AND TRY TO MAKE HIM LISTEN TO MY STORY!

BUT I HAD A FOREWARNING OF MY TREATMENT WHEN I WALKED THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE TOWN...

HA, HA! LOOK AT THE FREAK! MUST BE A CARNIVAL IN TOWN!

POOR FELLOW! NATURE SURE PLAYED A MEAN TRICK ON HIM!

I WENT INTO THE MOST IMPOSING BUILDING I COULD FIND AND WHEN NO ONE STOPPED ME, KEPT RIGHT ON WALKING INTO THE HEAD MAN'S OFFICE...

I CAN'T WASTE TIME LISTENING TO A RAVING LUNATIC! GET OUT OR I'LL HAVE YOU THROWN OUT!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU MARTIANS? CAN'T YOU WAIT TILL I FINISH MY WHOLE STORY BEFORE...

I KEPT TALKING... EVEN AS I FELT A PAIR OF BRAWNY HANDS DRAG ME AWAY...

I COME FROM THE THIRD PLANET... EARTH...

IF HE EVER SETS FOOT INSIDE THIS BUILDING AGAIN, THROW HIM IN JAIL!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

I WAS HUNGRY, TIRED, AND DESPERATE! I WANTED TO GET BACK TO EARTH... BUT HOW COULD I REPAIR MY SPACE-SHIP WITHOUT FUNDS OR MATERIALS?..

A MARTIAN RESTAURANT! I'M SO HUNGRY I COULD EVEN EAT SOME OF THAT STRANGE LOOKING FOOD...

HUNGRY, PAL? COULD I TREAT YOU TO A MEAL?

YOU SURE CAN... FRIEND!

BY THE TIME I HAD FINISHED EATING, I HAD TOLD MY WHOLE STORY TO MY BENEFACTOR...

A STRANGE STORY! I DON'T BELIEVE IT OF COURSE, BUT MY CUSTOMERS MIGHT! PEOPLE ARE GULLIBLE ENOUGH TO BELIEVE ANYTHING!

CUSTOMERS? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

I RUN A TRAVELING SIDE-SHOW! I'D LIKE TO BILL YOU, AS THE "MAN FROM EARTH"! I'LL PAY YOU, OF COURSE...

IT'S A DEAL!

I NEEDED THE JOB TO KEEP FROM STARVING, AND TO BE ABLE TO BUY MATERIALS TO REPAIR MY SPACE-SHIP SO I COULD GET BACK TO EARTH...

ONE OF THE MAJOR SOURCES OF FOOD ON EARTH IS CATTLE.. AN ANIMAL WITH FOUR LEGS!

IMAGINE EATING A LIVING ANIMAL! HOW BARBARIAN!

HA, HA! DON'T TAKE HIM SO SERIOUSLY! HE'S A FAKE!

SOME DAYS LATER, IN THE MIDST OF ONE OF MY "PERFORMANCES"...

KEEP CALM, FOLKS!

WE WANT THAT MAN!

WHO... ME?

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST! WE'RE TAKING YOU TO THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

ALL THAT DAY AND THE NEXT, THE MARTIAN LAWMEN KEPT GRILLING ME! WHO WAS I? WHERE DID I COME FROM? HOW DID I GET HERE?... UNTIL...

ALL RIGHT! IF YOU'RE REALLY FROM EARTH, AS YOU CLAIM, SHOW US HOW A SPACE-SHIP WORKS! OTHERWISE, WE'LL PUT YOU IN JAIL FOR DEFRAUDING THE PUBLIC!

OF COURSE I'LL SHOW YOU!

I FIGURED THAT SHOWING THEM MY SPACE-SHIP, AND GETTING THEM TO HELP ME TO REPAIR IT, WOULD BE AN EASY WAY OF GETTING BACK TO EARTH! LATER, AT A MEETING OF THEIR GREATEST SCIENTISTS...

I CAN NOW REPORT THAT WE HAVE PERFECTED THE MOST POWERFUL AND DESTRUCTIVE WEAPON EVER DEVISED...

A DEATH-RAY! IF THEY EVER BROUGHT THAT TO EARTH...

COME, EARTHMAN! IT IS TIME FOR YOUR TALK!

DO I DARE RISK TELLING THE MARTIANS THE SECRET OF SPACE-TRAVEL, IF IT MEANS USING A DEATH-RAY TO CONQUER EARTH?

BY THE TIME I WAS READY TO SPEAK, I MADE UP MY MIND WHAT I HAD TO DO...

HEE, HA, HA! ME... AN EARTH-MAN? FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE I HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF LAUGHING AT YOU... YOU WHO ALWAYS LAUGHED AT ME BECAUSE I WAS A FREAK! I FOOLED YOU ALL... HA, HA, HA... FOOLED YOU...

HA HA HA HA HA

THEY THREW ME INTO A CELL, AND IT'S HERE THAT I WILL SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE. SOMETIMES A DOUBT CROSSES MY MIND AND I WONDER...

WOULD THE MARTIANS REALLY HAVE USED THEIR DEATH-RAY TO CONQUER EARTH? AM I NEEDLESSLY EXILING MYSELF HERE ON MARS? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THE END

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT STARS?

TRUE-FALSE

(Below are 10 statements designed to test your knowledge about *star clusters*. Select the ones that are completely correct and answer *true*. If you spot one that is all or partly erroneous, answer *false*. For each number correctly answered, credit yourself with 4 points).

1. While such simple groups as *binary stars* involve only a single pair of stars, a *cluster* may involve hundreds or even thousands of associated stars.

2. Star clusters probably owe their origin to a nebula that disintegrated.

3. The various stars composing a cluster move through space at different speeds and in opposite directions.

4. The only sure way to determine which stars belong to a cluster, and which stars merely appear in the same field of vision, perhaps nearer or farther than the cluster, is to observe and examine each star's motion.

5. Several different types of star clusters are recognized —depending upon the shape, distance, number of stars, and position in our galaxy.

6. A typical example of an "open star cluster" is the *Pleiades*, a group of 500 stars, seven of which (the "Seven Sisters") can be seen with the unaided eye if the night is dark and the atmosphere clear.

7. Stars of an open cluster are so-far apart that the cluster may move through a region where there are other stars, without resulting in a single collision.

8. The astronomer Shapley lists only 93 "globular clusters" in our whole stellar system. Few, if any more, are likely to be discovered, for with existing telescopes, they can already be seen to the farthest limits of the solar system.

9. Though a globular cluster contains many more stars than an open cluster, it occupies considerably less area in space.

10. Stars in a cluster, relatively close together and traveling through space like a flock of birds, offer a method of determining their distances which would be impossible if applied to only one star.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

(Herewith are presented facts dealing with *variable stars*. However, only *one* of a trio of statements is correct. Make your choice and take 2 points for each alternate correctly answered.)

1. We are so accustomed to thinking of our sun as an unchanging source of light and heat that we naturally think of all star-suns being equally constant. But there are several (a) hundreds, (b) thousands, (c) millions that are known to be *variable stars*, fluctuating in light and heat intensity.

2. A prominent example of the *long-*

period class of variable stars is (a) Mira, (b) Arcturus, (c) Sirius.

3. Variable stars that change from time to time by different amounts and at different intervals are known as (a) short-order variables, (b) time-split variables, (c) irregular variables.

4. *Cepheid variables* are among the most interesting stars of changing brightness. They have periods ranging from a few hours to about 50 (a) days, (b) weeks, (c) years.

5. Cepheid variables are especially valuable in astronomical work in helping to measure (a) sizes, (b) distances, (c) temperatures of other stars.

6. The nearest Cepheid variable star to our solar ssytem is about (a) 20, (b) 200, (c) 2000 light years distant.

7. Several theories have been proposed to explain the motions and changes in brightness of Cepheid variables. The most widely accepted of these is the pulsation theory, suggested by (a) Jeans, (b) Einstein, (c) Shapley.

8. The number of Cepheid variable spectra that has been recorded is about (a) 160, (b) 1600, (c) 16,000.

9. Variable stars with a period of less than one day are often called *cluster variables*, because they are found in great numbers in the globular clusters. Astronomers have identified about (a) 60, (b) 600, (c) 6000 examples of the cluster-type variable stars.

10. Stars which suddenly flare up and then fade to their former obscurity are known as (a) comets, (b) bollides, (c) novae.

MISSING WORD

(Supply the missing word that will complete the following facts about the *interiors of stars*. Each word correctly given is worth 5 points.)

1. The mere fact that the sun, as well as most stars, _____ at a steady rate reveals that the interiors of stars must be in equilibrium.

2. The pressure at any depth within a star is equal to the _____ of the material above it.

3. According to modern theory, all stars are perfectly _____ from surface to center.

4. The chief chemical element of which stars are composed is _____, and may be present to the extent of 99 per cent or more.

5. The densities of stars _____ very rapidly toward their centers.

MATCHING COLUMNS

1. Kruger 60	A. White Dwarf Star
2. Sirius B	B. Multiple Star
3. Castor	C. Super-Giant Sta
4. Rigel	D. Variable Star
5. Mira	E. Double Star

ANSWERS

True-False: 1, true. 2, true. 3, false (all stars in a cluster move through space at the same speed and in the same direction). 4, true. 5, false (only two kinds of clusters are recognized—the "open cluster" and the "globular cluster"). 6, true. 7, true. 8, true. 9, false. 10, true.

Multiple Choice: 1, b. 2, a. 3, c. 4, a. 5, b. 6, b. 7, c. 8, a. 9, b. 10, c.

Missing Word: 1, shines. 2, weight. 3, gaseous. 4, helium. 5, increase.

Matching Columns: 1-E. 2-A. 3-B. 4-C. 5-D.

RATINGS

90 to 100—You're as bright as a super-nova!

75 to 90—You're as bright as Sirius!

60 to 75—You're as bright as the full moon!

0 to 60—You're as bright as the sun during a total eclipse!

MYSTERIES in SPACE!

IF A MAN ON THE MOON LOOKED AT THE EARTH THROUGH A TELESCOPE, WHAT—IF ANYTHING—WOULD HE BE ABLE TO SEE ON EARTH THAT WAS MAN-MADE?

THE ONLY MAN-MADE OBJECT HE COULD SEE WOULD BE THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA!

IN 1910, HALLEY'S COMET "GRAZED" THE EARTH! WHAT AFFECTS DID ASTRONOMERS DETECT FROM THIS COSMIC ACCIDENT?...

ASTRONOMERS SAW—HEARD—AND MEASURED NOTHING FROM THE "COLLISION"!

ASSUMING THAT AN EARTHMAN COULD S[illegible] THE SUN'S SURFACE, WHAT EFFECT W[illegible] ENORMOUS MASS AND GRAVITY PULL OF T[illegible] HAVE ON THE WATCH HE'S WEARING?..

THE WATCH WOULD RUN EXACTLY AS IT DOES ON EARTH! THIS IS BECAUSE NEITHER THE **INERTIA** OF THE BALANCE WHEEL NOR THE **ELASTICITY** OF THE WATCH SPRING WOULD BE EFFECTED BY THE INCREASED GRAVITY OF THE SUN!

IF INTERPLANETARY SPACE WERE FILLED WITH METEORS UNIFORMLY DISTRIBUTED *100 MILES APART*, HOW MANY METEORS WOULD BE ENCOUNTERED BY EARTH IN A SINGLE DAY?...

THE EARTH WOULD BE PELTED BY 78,700,000 METEORS DAILY!

IT IS A FACT THAT THE MOON IS RECEDING FROM THE EARTH. IF IT SHOULD REACH ONE MILLION MILES AWAY (ABOUT FOUR TIMES ITS PRESENT DISTANCE), HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE TO MAKE ONE COMPLETE REVOLUTION AROUND THE EARTH?...

THE MOON 12½ DAYS OLD

IT WOULD REVOLVE AROUND THE EARTH IN EIGHT MONTHS. IT NOW TAKES 27 DAYS, 7 HOURS, 43 MINUTES, AND 11.47 SECONDS!

the RUNAWAY WORLD!

"NO JOB TOO SMALL, NO CLIENT TOO LARGE"—THAT WAS THE PROUD MOTTO OF INTERPLANETARY INSURANCE, INC. ...BUT THE COMPANY'S PRIDE WAS HUMBLED--EXPLOSIVELY--AFTER IT HAD INSURED A PLANET AGAINST DESTRUCTION! SO WHAT ELSE, COULD THE I.I.I. DO BUT CALL IN ITS ACE INSURANCE INVESTIGATOR, BERT BRANDON, TO SAVE THE COMPANY FROM BANKRUPTCY!

I CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH OUR BEAUTIFUL WORLD DESTROYED...

SPACEGRAM

WILLIAM J. EMORY, INTERPLANETARY INSURANCE, INC., CAPITOL CITY, EARTH.

DEAR BOSS:

WHENEVER YOU CALL ME TO HEADQUARTERS, I KNOW INTERPLANETARY INSURANCE, INC. IS IN A PICKLE.,

"...AND YOU NEED BERT BRANDON TO GET YOU OUT OF THE BRINE!"

TEN YEARS AGO WE INSURED THE PLANET OF CETUS AGAINST DESTRUCTION--! NOW WE'RE FACED WITH RUIN!

SYSTEM OF CETUS

RUNAWAY STAR

A RUNAWAY STAR HITTING AN INHABITED PLANET? RELAX, BOSS! THE ODDS ARE 50-BILLION-TO-ONE!

WELL, IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN--AND WE'LL HAVE TO PAY OUT 500 MILLION STELLAR CREDITS! TAKE THE I.I.I. CLIPPER--AND GET OUT TO CETUS! STOP THIS MESS!

OH, SURE! WHAT'S A RUNAWAY STAR TO BERT BRANDON?

MYSTERY IN SPACE

SPACEGRAM

DEAR BOSS:

WELL, HERE I AM ON CETUS. IT'S A FUNNY PLANET. THESE PEOPLE BUILD HOUSES AS IF THEY'LL FALL APART ANY MINUTE. FOLLOWING YOUR INSTRUCTIONS..

"...I CHECKED WITH THEIR CHIEF ASTRONOMER..."

WE DISCOVERED THE RUNAWAY STAR A YEAR AGO, MR. BRANDON! ITS ORBIT WILL CARRY IT CRASHING INTO OUR PLANET!

THIS IS MORE SERIOUS THAN I THOUGHT!

BOOM

"NEXT, I WENT TO SEE THE CETIAN RULER. HIS TITLE IS UNPRONOUNCEABLE, BUT IN ENGLISH, IT MEANS 'DICTATOR'..."

YOU MUST GET YOUR PEOPLE OFF THIS PLANET! ORDER THEM TO BUILD SPACESHIPS!

WE DON'T KNOW HOW! EVEN IF WE DID, WE HAVE NO TIME! THE STAR WILL HIT US IN A FEW DAYS!

YOU WILL PAY 500 MILLION CREDITS TO OUR REPRESENTATIVES ON EARTH! OUR SURVIVORS, IF ANY, WILL COLLECT FROM THEM!

HOW DO I GET THE I.I.I. OUT OF THIS JAM?

"WHEN I LEFT THE PALACE, I FELT AS IF I DIDN'T HAVE A FRIEND IN THE WORLD. THEN I MADE ONE--UNWILLINGLY!"

A CETIAN PET--WITH THE HEAD OF A CHIMP, AND THE BODY OF A KANGAROO! HAVEN'T I GOT ENOUGH TROUBLES--WITHOUT PICKING UP A PET?

"I MADE MY FATAL MISTAKE... I PETTED THE CHIMPAROO!"

MRI! MRI!

THAT'S ALL YOU CAN SAY, EH? WELL, YOU DO LOOK LIKE MY BOSS--SO YOUR NAME IS "EMORY" FROM NOW ON!

"THE PROBLEM HAD ME BEAT, SO I WENT TO MY HOTEL AND PACKED..."

HEY! STOP THAT, YOU LITTLE PEST! SCAT! GO HOME!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

SPACEGRAM

DEAR BOSS:

CAN YOU PLAY A TUBA? IF SO, BRING OUT YOUR BRASS BAND! I'VE JUST FINISHED SAVING THE I.I.I...!

"I GOT RID OF THE CHIMPAROO BY OUTLEGGING HIM TO THE SPACEPORT. I HEAVED A SIGH OF RELIEF AFTER I HAD TAKEN OFF..."

I'M FINALLY RID OF THE PESKY CHIMPAROO...NOW ABOUT *CETUS*--I'VE GOT TO PULL SOMETHING OUT OF MY HAT--FAST!

MRI! MRI!

NO! NOT *YOU* AGAIN! THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT TO PULL OUT OF MY HAT!

"I TRIED TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT...TEN HOURS LATER, THE CHIMPAROO AND I WERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF **CETUS'** SUN, WHEN I SUDDENLY SAW..."

ANOTHER PLANET ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE SUN! I WONDER IF--? I'D BETTER LAND AND INVESTIGATE!

"MY BRAIN WAS CLICKING ON ALL CYLINDERS AS I LOOKED OVER THE UNINHABITED PLANET..."

THIS WORLD IS PERFECT FOR THE *CETIANS*! BUT HOW CAN I TRANSPORT A MILLION OF THEM ACROSS SPACE WITHOUT SPACESHIPS?

"BY THE TIME I RETURNED TO THE DOOMED PLANET, I HAD FOUND THE PERFECT SOLUTION.."

THERE! I'VE DRAWN THE PLANS FOR A SIMPLE SPACESHIP...IF THE *CETIANS* CAN BUILD IT, AT LEAST A THOUSAND OF THEM CAN BE SAVED!

MRI!

"I RUSHED BACK TO THE PALACE..."

THERE YOU ARE, YOUR DICTATORSHIP! YOU MUST PUT YOUR ENGINEERS AND FACTORIES TO WORK ON THIS IMMEDIATELY!

I SHALL! THE NEWS YOU BRING OF A PLANET ON THE OTHER SIDE OF OUR SUN GIVES US FRESH HOPE!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

SPACEGRAM

DEAR BOSS:

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THE HERO OF A WORLD? THE DICTATOR HAS MADE ME A NOBLEMAN--"COUNT OF SPACE"! FROM NOW ON, YOU MAY ADDRESS ME AS--"YOUR SPACESHIP"!..

"THE FACTORIES WENT INTO FRENZIED ACTION! WITH LUCK, THEY COULD COMPLETE A HUNDRED TRANSPORTS IN THE FEW DAYS BEFORE THE COLLISION..."

YOUR SPACESHIP, WE'RE BUILDING YOUR SPACESHIPS... UH--I MEAN--YOUR COUNTSHIP, WE COUNT SHIPS... UH--

SKIP IT! JUST GET AS MANY BUILT AS YOU CAN!... BEAT IT, EMORY! SCRAM!

MR!

"FOR ONCE, EVEN I WAS WRONG! NOT EVEN I WAS PREPARED FOR THE ASTOUNDING FEAT THAT WOULD GREET ME THE NEXT DAY..."

A THOUSAND SPACESHIPS--ENOUGH TO MOVE EVERY ONE OF MY SUBJECTS TO THE NEW WORLD!

A THOUSAND TRANSPORTS--BUILT IN ONE DAY! YOU CETIANS ARE GENIUSES!.. GET AWAY FROM ME, EMORY!

"THE NEXT FEW HOURS WERE HECTIC! BUT EVERYTHING WAS READY--IN TIME!"

WE'RE OFF! YOUR PEOPLE ARE SAVED, YOUR DICTATORSHIP!... BEAT IT!...I-I-I MEAN THE CHIMPAROO, SIR!

LOOK--THE RUNAWAY STAR APPROACHES!

WE WATCHED AS THE FLAMING STAR DREW CLOSER...CLOSER...UNTIL..."

I CANNOT BEAR TO WATCH OUR BEAUTIFUL WORLD DESTROYED...

"ALTHOUGH INEXPERIENCED SPACE-TRAVELERS, THE AMAZING CETIANS LANDED THEIR SHIPS LIKE VETERANS..."

GET AWAY FROM ME, EMORY--! HEY! WHAT'RE YOUR PEOPLE SO EXCITED ABOUT?

THEY WANT YOU! YOU ARE THEIR HERO! WE MUST CELEBRATE!

HURRAH FOR BERT BRANDON!

SPACEGRAM FOR YOU, YOUR COUNTSHIP! WE RECEIVED IT FROM EARTH WHILE IN FLIGHT!

MUST BE CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE BOSS!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

SPACEGRAM

DEAR BOSS:

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! YOUR MESSAGE SHOCKED ME! WHY ARE YOU FIRING ME? AND WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME BEFORE I STARTED...

"...THAT I.I.I. HAD INSURED THE CETIAN CITY--AND EVEN IF I HAD SAVED THE CETIANS, THE I.I.I. WOULD HAVE TO PAY ANYWAY?"...

"YOUR ANTICS HAVE COST I.I.I. 500 MILLION CREDITS! LOSE YOURSELF IN SPACE AND DON'T EVER COME BACK TO EARTH!"

"I LEFT THE CHEERING THRONG AND CLIMBED THE CLIFFS ...TO BE ALONE..."

HEY--CHIMPAROO--EMORY! COME BACK! GOOD GOSH--NOW HE WANTS NO PART OF ME EITHER!

ALL THIS TIME, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET RID OF HIM, AND COULDN'T! WHY SHOULD HE WANT TO LEAVE ME NOW?

"INSIDE THE CAVE, I DISCOVERED THE STARTLING ANSWER!.."

GALLOPING METEORS! AN APARTMENT! AND THE CHIMPAROO ACTS AS IF HE'S BEEN HERE BEFORE! THERE'S EVEN A-A KENNEL FOR HIM!

MRI!

A PICTURE OF THE DICTATOR--PAINTED BY ONE OF HIS SUBJECTS! B-BUT WE JUST LANDED! I DON'T UNDERSTAND...PERHAPS THE DICTATOR CAN EXPLAIN!

"I RACED BACK TO THE LANDING FIELD, AND THERE..."

YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE! THE DICTATOR IS IN CONFERENCE...

OUT OF MY WAY! THE DICTATOR'S GOING TO DO PLENTY OF TALKING--TO ME!

MRI!

SPACEGRAM

DEAR BOSS:

I KNOW YOU THINK I'M A CARD... BUT REMEMBER THAT I'M AN ACE... INVESTIGATOR! WHEN I STOLE INTO THE SPACESHIP, I HEARD...

"THE DICTATOR GLOATING OVER THE TRICK HE'D PLAYED ON I.I.I.--AND ME!"

BRANDON DOESN'T SUSPECT THAT **THIS** IS OUR REAL NATIVE PLANET! HE DOESN'T KNOW FOR TEN YEARS WE PREPARED A USELESS PLANET TO BECOME A 500 MILLION-CREDIT TRAP FOR HIS COMPANY!

WE KNEW ABOUT THE IMPENDING COLLISION FOR YEARS! WE BUILT FAKE CITIES ON OUR COMPANION PLANET--AND HID OUR SPACESHIPS! BRANDON THINKS WE BUILT THEM IN A DAY! HAHAHAHA!

"MY BLOOD TURNED TO FROZEN HELIUM AS EMORY, LIKE HIS NAMESAKE, FOULED UP EVERYTHING!"

LOOK--BRANDON'S PET! HE MUST BE NEAR--THERE HE IS! HE'S OVERHEARD US! GET HIM! SHOOT TO KILL!

"ON MY HASTY RETREAT TO THE SPACE CLIPPER, I DON'T KNOW WHO BOUNCED FASTER--THE CHIMPAROO OR ME!"

HURRY UP, YOU LITTLE PEST! GET INTO THE SHIP BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

"WE MADE IT--BARELY! AND ONCE IN FRONT OF MY TRANSMITTER..."

--AND THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY, COMMANDER! THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL US NOW, BUT MY SHIP'S FORCE FIELD IS PROTECTING US!

THE SPACE PATROL WILL BE THERE IN TWO HOURS! HOLD FAST!

"SO ENDS MY REPORT. THE DICTATOR AND HIS CRONIES ARE IN JAIL, AND WE DON'T HAVE TO PAY THEIR FRAUDULENT CLAIMS, SO..."

YOU'VE SAVED US A HALF-BILLION CREDITS, BERT! I CAN NEVER AWARD YOU ENOUGH--

ER--MR. EMORY, SINCE IT WAS THE CHIMPAROO WHO DISCLOSED THE PLOT, GIVE **HIM** THE REWARD! OF COURSE, AS HIS GUARDIAN, I'LL ATTEND TO SPENDING IT FOR HIM--EH, CHIMPY?

MRI!

The End

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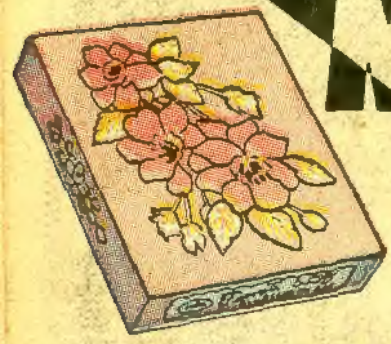

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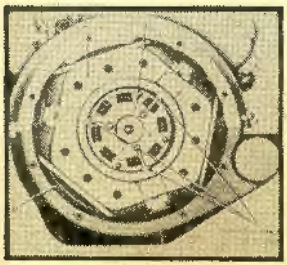

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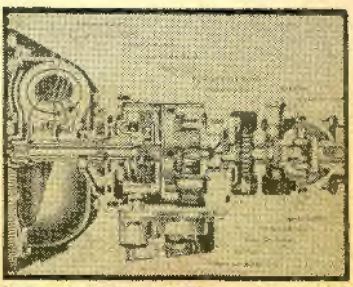

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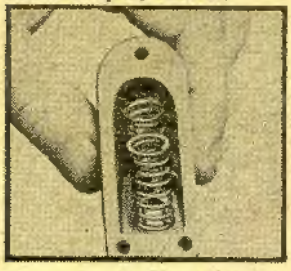

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